



November 21, 2013

Greetings & Blessings Faithful Follower of MissionAccess.org!

As we enter boldly this season of Thankfulness I am thankful for Faithful Followers like you who "Like" what we do and support us *exceeding abundantly* throughout the year.

Since our incorporation in October 2008 our "**ABCDEFGH**" *Mission Statement* remains:

To create an accessible mission field through a network of local churches where Able-Bodied people work alongside people affected by Challenges and Disabilities to Evangelize ALL people in a warm, welcoming environment of compassion, praise and service For the glory of God.

However our Vision is larger still as reflected in our Vision Statement:

Mission Accessible, Inc. is a Disability Ministry Magnifier/Multiplier that envisions a future where ministry to people and families affected by disability is an accepted, established and integral part of all churches small and large.

Figment: Awareness...Interest...Desire...ACTION!

Last Fall I unveiled our strategy on how best to achieve that Vision. Dubbed *Figment*, this simple yet powerful Ministry Magnifier/Multiplier Matrix focuses on the **process** of moving people from Awareness to Action in order to generate endless opportunities to minister to people and families affected by disability both now and sustainably into the future.



We have been blessed to witness God's mighty hand on Bartimaeus Baptist Temple (www.BBTemple.org) in Dallas. This fall we joyously celebrated 55 years in ministry! Sadly it was the last for Mary Taylor who attended the very first church service more than half a century ago. Despite her lifelong battle with Cerebral Palsy she faithfully attended church up until her Homegoing the following week.

Read about Mary's faithfulness in my Blog [Godspeed Mary!](#)

Oh how my heart cries out: there are more faithful followers like Mary out there! There simply needs to be more churches like BBTemple.org who lovingly reach out to all people and families affected by disability...regardless of what that disability might be.

However nothing happens without first generating Awareness.

That's why your support is so crucial!

Your support will allow us to focus on creating Awareness: not simply about the need for Disability Ministry but more importantly to ignite Interest, Desire and Action to help Propel passion for people and families affected by disability through the local church in order to transform Disability Ministry worldwide in the future.

I wrote a blog on [MissionAccess.org](#) entitled [Disability Evangelism To Adults With Disabilities: So How Is The Church Doing?](#) The answer? Lousy. In fact two decades after the passage of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) people with disabilities are as unchurched as ever.

The 2010 Survey of Americans with Disabilities done by The Kessler Foundation and the National Organization on Disability commissioned by Harris Interactive looked at the impact of the ADA (The Americans with Disabilities Act) 20 years later. The study looked at a wide range of areas including "the relationship between the presence of a disability and attendance of religious services."



Here are two facts I find fascinating: 1 "Adults with disabilities are significantly less likely than their peers without disabilities to attend religious services (50% v. 57% respectively), and 2. They are also significantly more likely to have NEVER attended a religious service compared to non-religious controls."

What's up with that? Isn't government supposed to "fix" all our problems? NOT!

Well then what about the Church? Doesn't it say that we are supposed to "invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:13-14 NIV

Amen! But I say don't stop there. Go just ten verses further to the *Parable of the Dinner* where it says we shouldn't stop at "invite" but keep going and "go out into the highways and hedges, and *compel* them to come in, that my house may be filled." Luke 14:23KJV

Sounds great, yes? Only there's a little problem with the true definition of "compel" which I write about it in my Blog [To Compel? Or Propel?](#)

► **COMPEL , v. make, coerce, drive (FORCE); necessitate, make necessary, force (NECESSITY).**

Yoikes! Sounds more like Health Care than the Love of God! But is that where we are missing it when it comes to leading people to a personal relationship with the Creator of the Universe?

Shouldn't we endeavor to joyfully **propel** people into a relationship with Jesus Christ?

► **PROPEL, v. push, start, set in motion (PROPULSION).**

So it really boils down to this: you can't force people to do the right thing. God in His Infinite Wisdom knows this. That's why he gave us Free Will. Unfortunately that applies to churches also. **How disappointed I am that I receive the level of resistance I do from local churches to engage in Disability Ministry. In fact it's downright heartbreaking.**

So sadly it comes as no surprise that according to Joni & Friends that although 1 in 5 people are considered "disabled" according to the US Census Bureau, only 1 in 10 churches have any sort of Disability Ministry outreach nationwide. **I know! I was the Church Relations Coordinator for Joni & Friends/Dallas-Fort Worth in 2007 and saw it myself. ☹**

Q: So what's the solution to this "Great Omission" of people and families affected by disability?

A: Transforming Disability Ministry Worldwide. One Soul At A Time.



My hope is that s concentrated focus in 2014 on Awareness for the Joys of Disability Ministry will cause churches worldwide to fall in love with it just like I did.

And if local churches continue to resist establishing Disability Ministry Outreaches, then I guess we'll just have to plant more loving little congregations like BBTemple upon whom I believe God has showered blessings for more half a century.

The only thing that changes hearts is the love of Jesus Christ made manifest through the local church. And when it comes to ministering to people and families affected by disability nobody does it better ...and certainly no one's been doing it longer...than Bartimaeus Baptist Temple (www.BBTemple.org) where they celebrated 55 years of ministry this Fall.

Your Generosity *Propels* Our Opportunity in 2014!

Let's raise Awareness of the incredible Opportunity to truly Transform Disability Worldwide! Let's spark Interest...fan the flames of Desire...and set ablaze a bonfire of Action to Propel the hearts and minds of people affected by disability into a Relationship with Jesus Christ.

Making a safe, secure donation to Mission Accessible is a quick and easy three-step process:

- ▶ **Step #1:** **Simply Go To The New & Improved: www.MissionAccess.org**
- ▶ **Step #2:** **Click On The *Support Our Mission* Tab & Click The PayPal *Donate* Button**
- ▶ **Step #3:** **Use Your Credit Card to Make a Secure Donation ASAP**

High-tech not your style? No problem! Please send your check or money order payable to "Mission Accessible, Inc." to:

**Mission Accessible, Inc.
ATTN: *Propel!* 2014
2004 Custer Parkway
Richardson, TX 75080**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call my cell: (214) 850-4656, or e-mail me at Linda@MissionAccess.org.

Thanks For Your Generosity! And Thanks For The Opportunity To Help Us *Propel* 2014 & Beyond!

In His Accessible Grace,



Linda Thacker, Executive Director



BTW Check out the [award](#) I received from REACH of Plano! 😊